



# MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY NEWSLETTER



JULY, 2006

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The Division's Deputy Chief Kim Becker and Deputy Chief Bill Zieres recently returned from the April International Fire Service Accreditation Congress annual meeting in Dublin, Ohio. The IFSAC membership unanimously approved international reaccreditation for the Division.

I am proud to announce that the IFSAC membership also elected Kim to serve as a member of the IFSAC Certificate Assembly Board of Governors. The Board of Governors serves as the governing body to act upon all accreditation applications; ensure certification is performed on a valid, credible, nondiscriminatory, and timely basis; suggest guidelines and policies; and clarify adopted policies.

The Board of Governors is comprised of 11 representatives of certifying entities from around the world. Being elected to this Board speaks highly of Kim's professionalism, dedication and passion to ensure the Division's certification program maintains a high level of credibility.

The State of Missouri is fortunate to hold a position on the Board. In addition, Kim serves on the Promotions Committee for the International Congress.

On a personal note I also want to recognize Deputy Chief Zieres along with Division training staff, Dorinda Tomka, Becky Trapani and Jim McKenney, for their devotion and dedication to the Division's training unit. Maintaining successful and credible certified training program is truly a team effort.

The Division was reaccredited for the certification levels of Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations, Fire Fighter I and II, Fire Officer I, Fire Service Instructor I, Fire Investigator, and Fire Inspector I. Initial accreditation was also granted to the Division for Fire Officer II and Fire Service Instructor II.



**IFSAC Certificate Assembly Board Chairman Tim Bradley, right, presents Missouri's reaccreditation to Kim Becker and Bill Zieres.**



*From State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

## **Governor Blunt Validates Emergency Responders' Training and Certification**



Governor Matt Blunt further validated emergency responders' training and certification through the Missouri Division of Fire Safety as he signed House Bill 1509 into law.

The Division is mandated to establish and maintain a voluntary training and certification program based upon nationally recognized standards. The legislation also extended the Division's training programs from involving not only fire service personnel but to include public to private employees or volunteers in the field of emergency response, rescue, fire prevention, or preparedness.

In today's demanding and ever changing service environment, certification of Missouri's emergency responders ensures that we have individuals ready to adapt and respond to ever-evolving responsibilities.

The Division's certification programs have become integral parts of the hiring, promotional, and officer development processes of many fire departments throughout the state.

The Division currently has issued over 48,000 certifications to emergency service personnel at all levels.

The legislation also allows the State Fire Marshal to develop rules and regulations under the state's administrative rules provisions to carry out the requirements of the law.

Other successful fire service legislation includes:

- SB 863 modifies the definition of volunteer fire protection association
- SB 893 prohibits any ambulance or fire protection district from reducing the districts sales tax rather than the collector
- HB 1344 expands investment options of the Firemen's Retirement System of St. Louis



### **NEOSHO LIFE SAVING AWARDS PRESENTED**

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*



On June 20<sup>th</sup> I was honored to have been invited to participate in a very special award ceremony. Neosho Fire Chief Greg Hickman and Neosho Police Sergeant Steven Douglas were recognized by the city of Neosho for their heroic actions at a vehicle accident in May.

Their actions at the scene saved the life of a 10-year-old boy. In the accident the vehicle in which the boy was riding came to rest upside down in a local creek. The boy, still seat belted in, was under water. Both selflessly entered the water and successfully able to free the child and remove him from the vehicle. Immediately, CPR was initiated on the child which was successful in reviving the child.

Chief Hickman and Sgt. Thompson were presented with a Division life safety certificate of appreciation and are to be commended for their life saving actions.



## NEW ADDITION TO FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD



Chief Greg Pottberg, Ft. Osage Fire Protection District was recently appointed by Governor Blunt to serve on Missouri's Fire Safety Advisory Board. Chief Pottberg has served with the Fort Osage Fire District since 1976 and was appointed fire chief in 2001. He currently is president of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs.

Chief Pottberg replaces Lemay Fire District Chief Neil Svetanics who has served as the Board's chairman since March 2003. I personally want to thank Chief Svetanics for his support and service to the Division during his tenure with the Board.



## FFAM APRIL CONVENTION NEWS

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

Congratulations to the Firefighters Association of Missouri for another successful and well attended convention. A special thanks goes out to South Central Buchanan County Fire District Chief Dennis Johnson and his staff for hosting the conference and their hospitality.

I was fortunate to be able to participate in opening ceremonies and assist with a portion of the competitions on Saturday morning. Of course the weather did not cooperate but it did not seem to dampen the spirit of those competing. Congratulations to those teams receiving trophies and especially to the St. Clair team and Southern Stone County Auxiliary team for receiving the overall trophy.

The FFAM Fire Chief of the Year was presented to Cole County Fire District Chief Donnie Braun. The FFAM Fire Department of the

Year was the State Fair Fire Department which was dedicated to the memory of Chief Lonnie Lentz and Firefighter Dave Rudisaile.

At Saturday's banquet, FFAM President Keith Smith presented commemorative FFAM axes to Chief Phil Sayer for over 25 years of service to the association and Jack Asher who voluntarily has served as the first and only association historian.

Next year's conference is being hosted by St. Clair Fire Protection District. The St. Clair representatives have expressed to me that they are promising an unforgettable experience and best ever conference. I can tell you first hand that I truly believe they will follow through with this commitment.

Again, a job well done by Chief Johnson and his department.

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## Ste. Genevieve Fire Station Groundbreaking

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*



I appreciate all of the invitations that I and the Division receive to fire service functions across the state. Although I was unable to be present at the April groundbreaking ceremony for Ste. Genevieve's new fire station, I would like to express my congratulations to Chief Schwendt and his department.

Plans are to construct an impressive 15,000 square foot station that will include bays for eight vehicles, three training rooms, a conference room and kitchen. In addition, a 44-foot training tower will be incorporated into the front of the station.



# Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

During the week of May 15, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security announced grant awards to a number of Missouri fire and police departments as part of the second phase of fiscal year 2005 CEDAP.

This program helps meet the equipment needs of small jurisdictions by providing communication interoperability, information sharing, chemical detection, sensors, personal protective equipment and technology.

Congratulations to the following fire departments who were awarded CEDAP grants: Webb City Fire Department, Stewartsville Fire Protection District, Sni Valley Fire Protection District, Oran Fire Protection District, Maryville Department of Public Safety, Ironton Fire Department, Hazelgreen Fire Protection District, Hannibal Rural Fire Protection District, Farmington Fire Department, Cooper County Fire Protection District, Canton R-V Fire Protection District.

## Kansas City Asst. Chief Fire Marshal James Duddy Recognized



**Congratulations to Kansas City Fire Department Assistant Chief Fire Marshal James Duddy, who was recently awarded Kansas City's Distinguished Public Safety Award. Jim was presented the award at the 2006 Public Service Recognition Award Ceremony for his 50 years of service to the Kansas City Fire Department. The Division has always had a good working relationship with Jim and we appreciate his continued support.**



## DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY UPDATES



*by Personnel Analyst Donna Moore*

### Investigation Unit has New Leadership

The names are the same but the titles are changing. . . . Regional Chief Bill Zieres has been promoted to Deputy Chief filling the vacancy left by Jim Wilson. Bill has been with the Division for 27 years, serving 10 years as Fire Investigator until 1989 when he was promoted to Regional Chief Investigator. Over the years Bill has been instrumental with the development of numerous training courses and continues to excel as an instructor in a wide variety of fire service related training.

Jim Wilson who has served as Deputy Chief of Investigations since 1996, has decided to return to the field as a Fire Investigator effective July 1. Jim's started his division career as a Fire Investigator in 1985. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1996. He also served as one of the Division's first explosive-detection canine handlers. Jim will be stationed in the Eldon area covering the central part of the state.

Fire Investigator Rodger Windle has been promoted to the Regional Chief position vacated by Bill. Rodger has been with the Division since 1993. Rodger will be supervising the field staff located in the eastern part of Missouri.

### Retirement

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspector Don Light retired on June 30 after working for the Division for almost nine years. Don plans on traveling and spending time with his grandchildren. We wish him the best and appreciate his years of dedicated service to the Division.

Dwain Dierksen will be replacing Don as the boiler and pressure vessel inspector in the Springfield area. Dwain comes to the Division after 16 years as a supervisor in charge of the boiler and refrigeration equipment for Willow Brooks Foods.

### Job Opportunities

The Division currently has job openings for the positions of Elevator/Amusement Ride Safety Inspector, Fire Investigator and Boiler & Pressure Vessel Safety Inspector. Check our website at [www.dfs.dps.mo.gov/dfsjobs](http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov/dfsjobs) for further information and application.



# FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY FOCUS

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

In June the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation along with the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program Team announced the release of the Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit. Over 30,000 U.S. fire departments will be receiving the kit as part of the "Everyone Goes Home" program. The kit is designed to help reduce firefighter line of duty deaths through a video training resource package.

Six modules targeting the areas where most firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries occur are targeted by the training package: Health & Wellness, Vehicle Operations, Fireground, and Live Fire Training. In addition, the program contains interviews with over 50 nationally recognized fire service leaders who provide their insight and views.

Every year more than 100 firefighters die in the line-of-duty, and approximately 10,000 are seriously injured. The U.S. Fire Administration's goal is to reduce line-of-duty deaths by 25% by 2009 and 50% by 2014. To reach this goal the "Everyone Goes Home" program was created and is funded through the FIRE Act Grant.

I encourage you to incorporate the Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit with your in-house training programs to assist the U.S. Fire Administration in reaching their goal.

On a related note, by the time this newsletter is published the second annual International Firefighter Safety Stand Down will have passed. Although the date (June 21<sup>st</sup>) has passed, I feel it is important to reemphasize the purpose and intent of the stand down; to raise firefighter safety awareness and call attention to the unacceptable number of deaths and injuries experienced by the fire service.

This year's stand down focus was on vehicle safety. Statistics show that almost 25% of all firefighter fatalities are a result of vehicle accidents. Fire service related vehicle accidents can have a direct public impact. Therefore, it is important to look at internal safety performance and guidelines.

The following recommendations can make a difference:

- Review your seat belt policy; establish one if none currently exists.
- Inspect seat belts for defects.
- Review your operations policies, including emergency and non-emergency response, safe and official vehicle use.
- Spend extra time with new and substitute drivers to familiarize them to apparatus specifics.
- Perform a street/road familiarization drill.

Learning from "near-miss" situations can be another tremendous tool to aid Missouri's fire service. Raising awareness to these types of situations and taking positive corrective action to prevent a similar situation from happening to you or your fellow firefighters is key to reducing firefighter injuries and fatalities.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System now provides you an opportunity to receive their "Report of the Week". This feature allows you to receive notification of near-miss situations on a weekly basis. The report analyzes the situation and provides training questions.

To receive the weekly "Report of the Week" you can e-mail [nearmiss@iafc.org](mailto:nearmiss@iafc.org) with "Subscribe-SD" in the subject line.





# 2006 DHS GRANT FUNDING

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

The State Emergency Management Agency is gearing up for the next round of homeland security grant funding. Although homeland security dollars continue shrinking, preliminary information from the Department of Homeland Security indicates that Missouri should be receiving \$42.8 million for state and local homeland security initiatives.



State Homeland Security Program	\$17,980,000
Urban Areas Security Initiatives	\$18,440,000
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	\$ 5,610,000
Metropolitan Medical Response System	\$ 464,440
Citizen Corps Program	\$ 366,319

The national peer reviewers deemed eight of fifteen of Missouri's justifications as being in the top 15% of the 586 proposals submitted to DHS.

This ranking and associated amount of funding available to Missouri was greatly due to the efforts of SEMA through the formation of grant review workgroups. Workgroup categories included citizen protection/mass care, responder health/safety, information sharing/collaboration, communications, medical surge/mass propolaxis, animal health, CBRNE, and infrastructure protection. Various disciplines were involved within the workgroups and this was a true cooperative effort.

I want to thank the following fire service personnel who volunteered their time to participate in the workshop discussions:

🔥 John Bailot	Kirkwood Fire Dept.
🔥 Bill Brandes	Creve Couer Fire District
🔥 Ralph Break	St. Louis Fire Dept.
🔥 Greg Brown	Eureka Fire District
🔥 Sean Douglas	Warrensburg Fire Dept.
🔥 Curtis Edwards	Kansas City Fire Dept.
🔥 Paul Lininger	Central Jackson County Fire District
🔥 Ed Pfeifer	Kansas City Fire Dept.
🔥 Ernie Rhodes	St. Charles Fire Dept.
🔥 Sandra Schiess	Independence Fire Dept.
🔥 Jason Turner	Jefferson City Fire Dept.
🔥 Mark Widner	Independence Fire Dept.
🔥 John Williams	St. Louis Fire Dept.
🔥 Chuck Witt	Columbia Fire Dept.



**If you wish to receive email updates from the Division on legislation, training and certification issues, safety alerts, and other fire service information, send your name, agency name, and email address to the Division at [firesafe@dfs.dps.mo.gov](mailto:firesafe@dfs.dps.mo.gov)**

**If your email address has changed since you provided the Division with it, please send your updated information to [firesafe@dfs.dps.mo.gov](mailto:firesafe@dfs.dps.mo.gov)**



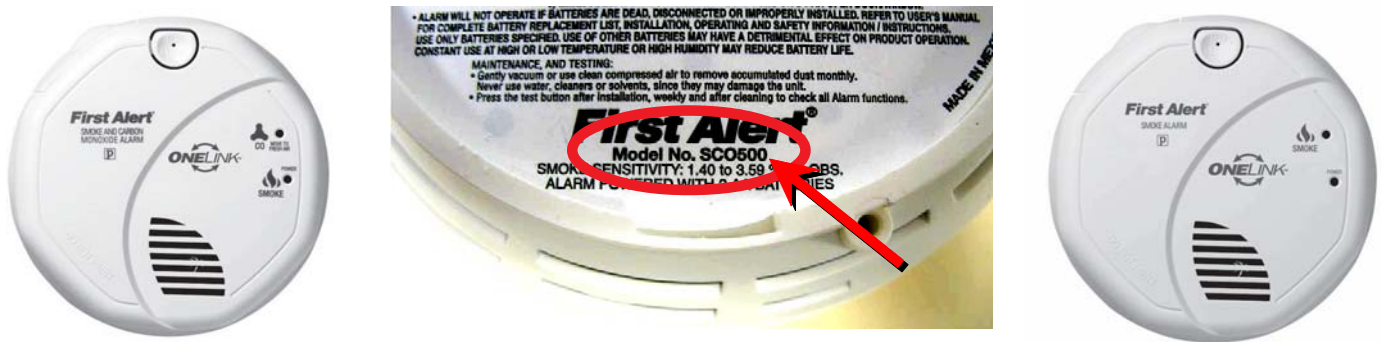
# CPSC PRODUCT RECALLS

*by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole*

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, BRK Brands Inc., a subsidiary of First Alert Inc. has announced a voluntary recall of nearly 146,000 First Alert ONELINK battery-powered smoke and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. These alarms can drain the power from batteries rapidly, causing premature low battery power. Consumers will receive an alert when low battery condition exists by a chirping sound. If the batteries are not replaced, the alarm will not function in the event of a possible fire and/or the presence of carbon monoxide.

The recalled alarms include model numbers SA500 and SCO500 with a date code prior to March 3, 2006. The model number and date code are printed on the back of the alarm. These alarms were sold nationwide between June 2005 through March 2006.

Consumers with alarms included in the recall should contact First Alert, Inc. immediately to receive a replacement alarm at 800-323-9005.



Other CPSC product recalls that pose a potential fire hazard are:

- HP & Compaq Notebook Computer Batteries
- Tyco Fire & Security Smoke Detectors
- Tyco Fire & Security Fire Detection Systems
- InFocus LP120 Projector, ASK Proxima MI Projector & SP-LAMP-013 Replacement Lamp Module

In other action, CPSC has announced the recall of approximately 61,000 packages of six rockets, distributed by BJ Alan Co. due to the rockets having too much flash powder that could cause explosions bigger than expected. The stick type rockets have a 4-inch engine mounted on a stick that is 16-inches long. The engine is wrapped in blue or purple paper and reads, “Phantom Fireworks Thunder Stick Rocket”.

These rockets were sold by Phantom Fireworks with two locations in Missouri; Herculaneum and Rock Port. Consumers should stop using the product and contact the company at 800-777-1691 or visit the CPSC website.

For more specific recall information on these products and others, check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)





# Post Blast Course



*by Asst. Fire Marshal Greg Carrell*

Investigative first responders from local, state and federal agencies recently participated in Explosives Incident Investigation (Post-Blast) course in Columbia.

Using allocated homeland security funds, Homeland Security Coordinator Paul Fennewald unified a federal, state, and local effort to bring this post-blast training course to Missouri.

“The Office of Homeland Security is committed to spending homeland security dollars appropriately and effectively to ensure Missouri has the education and training tools necessary to prepare them to manage today’s increasing threat of terrorism,” Fennewald said.

The course was designed to educate participants in the proper investigation of any post-blast explosives incident. The course covered topics such as explosives recognition, improvised explosive devices, scene processing, and evidence collection.

The training included a mix of classroom and hands-on field exercises. In the field exercise the class participants, divided into teams, investigated an actual bomb scene, which had been staged by the instructors. These teams then presented their findings back to the class as if they were preparing an actual case investigation.

The course was a cooperative effort of the Department of Public Safety, the Division of Fire Safety, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, the University of Missouri Police Department, and several local agencies in the effort to provide first responders with critical training in the investigation of explosives incidents.

Division Investigators Chris Thompson and Mark Fechtig participated in the course. Regional Chief Investigator Rodger Windle instructed a section covering the investigation of explosions involving fireworks.



# THE BENEFITS OF NIMS

*by Asst. Fire Marshal Greg Carrell*

The acronyms “NIMS” and “ICS” are not new, although lately they have received a lot of attention.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was developed by the Department of Homeland Security and issued in March 2004. The goal of the NIMS is to enable responders at all jurisdictional levels and across all disciplines to work together more effectively and efficiently.

Additionally, federal funding for state, local and tribal preparedness grants will be tied to compliance with the NIMS.

The NIMS takes the “best practices” approach to emergency response planning. “Best practices” is the process of examining major incidents from around the world in an effort to identify the actions that worked consistently across all disciplines of responders.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is included as part of the NIMS. Emergency responders have long used some form of ICS when called to medical emergencies, fires, disasters and large-scale law enforcement incidents. The ICS has even been used to support major sporting events.

Part of the federal mandate concerning the NIMS is that all first responders obtain training in both basic incident command and the workings of the National Response Plan. The level of this training is directly related to the responsibilities of the particular responder or public official during any incident.

All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

## Entry Level

FEMA IS-700: *NIMS, An Introduction* and  
ICS-100: *Introduction to ICS* or equivalent



## First Line, Single Resource or Field Supervisors

IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: *Basic ICS* or its equivalent

## Middle Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.

IS-700, IS-800 *NRP*, ICS-100, ICS-200 (and in FY07, ICS-300)

## Command and General Staff: Area, Emergency and EOC Managers

IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200 (and in FY07, ICS-300 and ICS-400)

Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all elected officials who will be interacting with multiple jurisdictions and agencies during an emergency incident should complete, at the minimum, IS-700 and ICS-100. These courses provide a basic understanding of the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System.

Everyone directly involved in managing an emergency should understand the command reporting structures, common terminology and roles and responsibilities inherent in a response operation.

Both IS-700 and ICS-100 are offered as online courses to provide another avenue for the responder or official to obtain certification at these levels.

For more information, please go to [www.nimsonline.com](http://www.nimsonline.com) or [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).





# ***HYBRID VEHICLES AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS***

*by Asst. Fire Marshal Greg Carrell*

Toyota Prius and Honda Insight, names recognized by Missouri's first responders as two of the first hybrid-electric vehicles (HEV), are vehicles powered by a combination of electric and gasoline engines. These vehicles, with their futuristic shapes are fairly easy to distinguish from a conventionally powered automobile.

First responders should be aware that nearly all car manufacturers now offer hybrid versions of existing conventionally engined vehicles. These vehicles are twins of their non-hybrid versions, identified externally only by each company's hybrid badging.

Hybrid-electric vehicles use a combination of a conventional internal combustion engine and an electric motor in an effort to decrease fuel consumption while maintaining performance. This marriage of technologies means both the consumer and first responder need to familiarize themselves with the special hazards which may be associated with these vehicles in the case of a collision or fire.

Even with the latest in built-in safety mechanisms, potential hazards include the chance of an electric shock (or chemical exposure) from contact with the battery system or electrical wiring harness.

It is also important to remember these vehicles contain passenger safety equipment such as pretensioners and multiple airbags. This safety equipment, while offering the vehicle's occupants the latest in protection in a collision, presents a new set of challenges to public safety responders.

All automotive manufacturers offer Emergency Response Guides (ERG) for their hybrid-electric vehicles. Most of these are available online from the manufacturers' websites or from the local dealership. Make sure the ERG you have is the most current offered or is applicable to the particular generation of hybrid vehicle. As hybrid technology changes, so does the information provided to the first responder.

In addition to manufacturer's websites, useful information can be obtained from: [www.hybridcars.com](http://www.hybridcars.com), The National Renewable Energy Laboratory ([www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)), Firehouse Publications ([www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com)) and [www.extrication.com](http://www.extrication.com).

First responders are encouraged to seek out and attend any training offered on this subject. By keeping a watchful eye on local or regional seminars as well as fire school course curriculum, responders can find training relating to hybrid technology.

State Farm Insurance Company offers an online video training course dealing with emergency personnel response to incidents involving either a hybrid vehicle or other vehicle utilizing the latest safety equipment. (<http://www.statefarm.com/sftv/sftv.htm>). Another source for in-house training is a Hybrid Awareness PowerPoint presentation which is available from the University of Missouri-Columbia's Fire and Rescue Training Institute, the web address of the presentation is [http://www.mufrti.org/download/Hybrid\\_Vehicles.zip](http://www.mufrti.org/download/Hybrid_Vehicles.zip).

With rising fuel costs and the consumer's growing environmental awareness, manufacturers will continue to seek out alternative fuel and power sources for their vehicles. These technological changes in the automotive field will offer new challenges to the first responder. It is up to all responders to remain aware of these changes as part of the effort to maintain the highest degree of on-scene safety to protect themselves and the public they serve.



# TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT HEADLINES

*by Deputy Chief Kim Becker*

## REGIONAL TESTING – UPDATE

The Division of Fire Safety staff administered 5,142 certification exams at 83 regional sites across the state from July 1, 2005 through June 20, 2006. In addition to the regional test sites, 697 exams were administered to applicants who made arrangements to test at the Division of Fire Safety Office.



If you are interested in testing at the Division office,

call one of the training unit staff at 573-751-2930 at least 48 hours prior to your desired test date to make an appointment. Test results will be issued immediately after testing.

Regional exams are scheduled in the Mutual Aid Regions and test sites are rotated within each region. Test locations and a schedule of Division courses are listed on our website at [www.dfs.dps.mo.gov](http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov).

## 2006-2007 COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Oct. 16 - 20:</b>	<b>Fire Inspector - Kansas City Fire Academy</b>
<b>Oct. 30 - Nov. 3:</b>	<b>Fire Investigator - Jefferson City</b>
<b>Jan. 8 - 12:</b>	<b>Fire Investigator - Springfield</b>
<b>Feb. 12 - 16:</b>	<b>Fire Inspector - St. Louis</b>
<b>Mar. 19 - 23:</b>	<b>Fire Inspector - Jefferson City</b>

**Preregistration is required for all Division courses. Visit our website at [www.dfs.dps.mo.gov](http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov) to download certification booklets that include information regarding prerequisites and course applications. Students must meet all of the prerequisites in order to be considered to attend Division courses. Priority will be given to qualified applicants from the area where the course is being held.**



# TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT HEADLINES

by Deputy Chief Kim Becker

## CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED AS OF JUNE 20, 2006

The Division of Fire Safety has issued 48,091 certifications to 19,873 fire service and emergency response personnel since 1985.



Fire Fighter I	11,444
Fire Fighter II	8,700
Investigator	1,829
Inspector	560
F.D. Instructor	491
Instructor I	2,327
Instructor II	526
Instructor III	88
Instructor IV	33
Evaluator	143
Fire Officer I	1,479
Fire Officer II	416
Haz-Mat Awareness	11,879
Haz-Mat Operations	7,851
Driver Operator	325



## Need CEUs for Recertification?

Consider attending the following conferences:

**Inspector** - August 11-13: Fire Marshals' Association of Missouri Annual Conference, Lake of the Ozarks. For more information log on to <http://www.fmamonline.com>

**Investigator** - September 8-13: Professional Fire & Fraud Investigators Association Annual Conference, Springfield. For more information log on to <http://www.pffia.com>

**Instructor** - September 22-24: UM Fire and Rescue Training Institute's Annual Instructor Conference - Jefferson City. A conference schedule and registration information will soon be posted at MFRTI's website at <http://www.mufrti.org>



# CERTIFICATION EVALUATORS

*by Deputy Chief Kim Becker*



The Missouri Division of Fire Safety has certified 143 Lead Evaluators and 152 Assisting Evaluators since May of 2005. Evaluators fill an important and vital role in the Division of Fire Safety's certification programs. Without Missouri's Evaluators, the majority of the state's fire fighters would not have had the opportunity to progress through the certification system. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the Evaluators for their professionalism and dedication to the certification programs.

All evaluators for any certification level must be approved by the Division of Fire Safety Training Unit prior to serving as an evaluator.

As mentioned in previous articles, individuals must have taken the revised Evaluator Course by July 1, 2006 in order to be approved as Lead or Assisting Evaluators.

The revised course is approximately two hours in length and addresses the Evaluators' role when conducting practical skills testing. The course was released in May 2005 and will continue to be scheduled throughout the state as funding and staff availability permits.

Courses will be posted on the Division's website at <http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov/> as they are scheduled. For additional information contact Kim or Becky at 573-751-2930.



# CERTIFICATION EVALUATORS

## ***LEAD EVALUATOR CRITERIA***

To serve as a Lead Evaluator for a certification examination, individuals must meet the following criteria:

1. Serve as an instructor for an approved agency; however, cannot have served as an instructor for the class to be tested.
2. Be certified by the Division of Fire Safety as a Fire Service Instructor II.
3. Be certified by the Division of Fire Safety at the level he or she is evaluating. For example, in order to evaluate Fire Fighter II, evaluator certification must be at the Fire Fighter II level.
4. Has attended the Division of Fire Safety Certification Evaluator Seminar.
5. Agrees to abide by all of the rules and conditions stipulated by the Division of Fire Safety.
6. Agrees to and signs an "Evaluator Code of Ethics" form for each exam administered.

## ***ASSISTING EVALUATOR CRITERIA***

Assisting evaluators are chosen through a mutual agreement between the Lead Evaluator and the Division of Fire Safety. Assisting evaluators are predominately used to assist with practical skills testing. Those interested in becoming an assisting evaluator for the Division of Fire Safety must meet the following criteria:

1. Be certified by the Division of Fire Safety as a Fire Service Instructor I.
2. Be certified by the Division of Fire Safety at the level he or she is evaluating.
3. Has attended the Division of Fire Safety Certification Evaluator Seminar.
4. Cannot have served as an instructor for the class to be tested.
5. Agrees to abide by all of the rules and conditions stipulated by the Division of Fire Safety.
6. Agrees to and signs an "Evaluator Code of Ethics" form for each exam administered.



**Have you been looking for training relating to Locomotive Emergency Response Operations? A video is available through the Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Research and Development. For further information, contact William Schoonover at 202-493-6229 or John Punwani at 202-493-6369.**





# Another "Wild" Spring in Missouri

*by NFIRS Program Manager Jim McKenney*

This spring, Missouri was plagued by what seemed to be a never ending series of wildland fires. While the State as a whole had many fires, southwest Missouri had the "lion's share" of natural cover fires. A brief comparison of this year's wildland fire statistics to those of previous years paints a better picture of the problem.

In 2004, the State of Missouri had 5,243 natural cover fires, with a total dollar loss of \$150,022. The majority of these fires occurred during the first four months of the year.

In 2005, the State of Missouri had 7,441 natural cover fires, with a total dollar loss of \$213,592. The majority of these fires occurred during last quarter of the year.

In the first four months of 2004, the state had 3,018 natural cover fires; in the same period of 2005, we had 3,772 natural cover fires.

So far in the first four months of 2006, the state has had 3,389 natural cover fires.

Although the number of 2006 natural cover fires is below the 2005 totals, the total dollar loss for 2006 is \$1,052,317, a significant increase from previous years. The increase is due to the large number of outbuildings and other structures involved in these fires.

In addition to the increase in dollar loss, there is also an increase in injuries. In 2004 there was one civilian injury and one fire fighter injury reported as a result of wildland fires. In 2005, this number jumped to two civilian and five fire fighter injuries. So far in 2006, there have been two civilian and 11 fire fighter injuries.

Drought forecasts for the remainder of 2006 predict the dry conditions in Missouri will continue.

With this knowledge Missouri's fire service is anticipating an increase in wildland fire incidents. Hopefully, through increased public education and awareness of the problem, we can keep these numbers, both dollar loss and injuries, from continuing to grow at this alarming rate.



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY PROMOTES RIDER SAFETY

*by Deputy Chief Larry Watson*

Missouri has a variety of fixed amusement park locations as well as numerous traveling carnivals operating in the State throughout the summer. Since 1997, the Missouri Division of Fire Safety has strived to ensure all rides meet safety standards and have state operating permits. It is important to the Division that Missouri citizens and visitors to our State are afforded safe operating amusement rides and attractions.

The Division is committed to safeguarding riders by conducting numerous spot safety inspections throughout the season however; the Division also encourages the public to be as vigilant as possible in regards to amusement ride safety.

Each ride operating in Missouri is required to have a current state operating permit. Such permit shall be affixed to a basic structural component of the ride. If no permit is visible it is recommended that you ask the ride operator to see the permit before you board the ride. If no permit can be provided or if unsafe conditions exist you are encouraged to contact the Division of Fire Safety at 573-751-2930 or local authorities.

The Division of Fire Safety is promoting the following safety tips and educating amusement ride patrons on how to stay safe while having fun on amusement rides and attractions. Raising the level of public awareness to amusement ride safety is key to preventing ride related injuries.



## **Safety guidelines/tips:**


- ◆ Do not assume a ride is safe for small children if you hold on to them.
- ◆ Explain/describe the ride's action to your child so that they know what to expect of the ride.
- ◆ If your child is afraid of the ride, it is probably best not to put him or her on the ride.
- ◆ NEVER force a child to ride a ride they are not comfortable with.
- ◆ Read and follow all posted rules, especially those placing restrictions on age, height and weight.
- ◆ Each ride is required to have rules/restrictions posted. If none are posted ASK.
- ◆ Follow all instructions given to you by the ride operator.
- ◆ Walk, do not run and hold on to handles provided.
- ◆ Remain seated and keep hands, arms and feet inside the ride at all times.
- ◆ Use provided safety restraints such as seat belt, shoulder harness, lap bar or chain and ensure they are in place before the ride starts.
- ◆ Stay seated until the ride comes to a complete stop.



## ***DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY PROMOTES RIDER SAFETY***

Many amusement related injuries occur due to inappropriate rider actions. Missouri's Amusement Ride Safety Act specifically addresses rider responsibility requirements. Violations of these requirements are subject to criminal prosecution.

A rider is responsible for obeying the posted rules or oral instructions of amusement rides and shall abide by the following:

- ★ A rider may not board or dismount from an amusement ride except at a designated area if one is provided.
  - ★ A rider may not throw or expel any object or matter from or toward an amusement ride.
  - ★ A rider may not act in any manner contrary to posted and oral rules while boarding, riding on or dismounting from any amusement ride.
  - ★ A rider may not engage in any reckless act or activity which may tend to injure himself or others.
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- ★ While using amusement rides that require steering or control of oneself or a car device, every rider shall maintain reasonable control of his speed and course at all times. A rider shall not steer the ride in such a manner as to intentionally harm another person.
  - ★ A rider may not disconnect, disable or attempt to disconnect or disable any safety device, seat belt, harness or other restraining device before, during or after movement of the ride has started except at the express instruction of the operator.
  - ★ A rider may not disembark or attempt to disembark from any amusement ride before, during or after movement of a ride has started except upon the express instruction of the operator.
  - ★ A rider may not board or attempt to board any amusement ride if he is under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance. The operator may prevent a rider who is perceptibly or apparently under the influence of drugs or alcohol from riding on an amusement ride. An operator who prevents a rider from boarding a ride in accordance with this paragraph shall not be criminally or civilly liable in any manner or to any extent whatsoever if the operator has a reasonable basis for believing that the rider is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  - ★ A rider may not alter or enhance the intended speed, course or direction of a ride by using any unauthorized device, instrument or method.
  - ★ A rider shall not attempt to gain access to controls of an amusement ride designed solely to be operated by employees of amusement parks.

Following these safety tips will help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip to the amusement ride park or carnival.



# Proper Boiler Care Makes Good Business Sense: Safety Precautions for Dry Cleaning Businesses

## An Actual Accident

Saturday was cleanup day at the small dry cleaner's. Every week, the horizontal return tubular (HRT) boiler was drained, flushed and prepared for the next week's work. This Saturday, however, the boiler operator was interrupted during his final steps. He performed every task except refilling the boiler.

This boiler was set to start automatically early on Monday mornings. The prescribed time arrived; the burner engaged.

When the owner arrived to open the business Monday morning, she found the local fire department at her back door and the severely overheated remains of her boiler.

Luckily, there was no explosion, since there was no water in the boiler. Also, fire fighters on the scene knew they should never spray water on an overheated boiler, so they closed the gas supply valve on the outside of the building and allowed the boiler to cool gradually. They stayed on-site to prevent any structural fires that might have developed as a result of the overheated boiler.



## What happened?

The low-water fuel cutoff should have prevented the burner from engaging, but the electrician improperly wired the control into the burner circuitry. The boiler had been operating in a potentially hazardous manner for several months. Had the owner requested an inspection, the boiler inspector would have tested the operation of the low-water fuel cutoff and, in this case, would have found it inoperable.

The uninsured boiler was a total loss. Both tube sheets had numerous cracks in the ligaments (the tube sheet material between the tube holes) and the bottom portion of the shell was severely deformed due to excessive heat.

This loss cost the owner of the dry cleaning business several thousand dollars for replacement of the boiler and business lost while waiting for the replacement boiler installation. A boiler inspection and jurisdictional certificate would have cost less than \$50.

The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors have files full of photographs, news clippings and official reports from serious accidents. Frequently and unfortunately, facilities that use boilers, like dry cleaners, are the subject of these accidents. Since dry cleaning plants need an adequate supply of steam, all have a boiler of some sort on the premises. Boilers are workhorse devices that sometimes are neglected for years, possibly decades, with no apparent maintenance. This neglect, whether intentional or due to lack of understanding, can have terrible consequences.

Depending on the operation, a dry cleaning plant will have one or more boilers under its roof. A dry cleaning plant will also contain other pressure vessels such as a typical water heater and an air compressor tank. While these pressure vessels are potentially hazardous and are subject to inspection in most jurisdictions, this article focuses on the boiler.

We all know how a boiler operates. Water is contained within a vessel and is heated by gas, electricity or some other fuel. As the water heats, it creates pressure and steam. Boilers are equipped with devices to control operating pressure, and safety valves that should allow pressure relief when safe operating limits are exceeded. But lack of routine inspection and lack of proper maintenance are widespread.



# Safety Precautions for Dry Cleaning Businesses

## Prevention Through Inspection

In the incident described above, a boiler inspector would have seen the problem and made recommendations to repair the boiler before that fateful morning. Thus, a costly and potentially dangerous accident would have been prevented.

Typically, insurance companies and Missouri require boiler and pressure vessel inspection on some regular interval. The National Board trains and commissions boiler inspectors who perform both safety inspections and accident investigations. But there are many boiler and pressure vessel system-users who have not had their systems inspected or licensed. It's no surprise that often, the uninspected systems are also poorly maintained.

## Everyone Can Help

Perhaps the best route to ensure boiler and pressure vessel safety is to practice installation and maintenance functions that meet both jurisdictional requirements and national standards.

Five preventive steps can help:

- **Equipment installation:** Install only boiler and pressure vessel equipment registered with the National Board. Such equipment will be manufactured in accordance with the *ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*. Most jurisdictions mandate National Board registration.
- **Replacement parts:** Purchase first-quality replacement parts (new or rebuilt) for any boiler or pressure vessel repair or maintenance effort.
- **Training:** Adequately train all personnel who regularly use or maintain a boiler or pressure vessel. Do not allow a general maintenance person to assume the responsibilities for day-to-day operation of any boiler or pressure vessel unless that person has had specific training.
- **Safety testing:** Establish a regular, periodic safety-testing program for all boilers and pressure vessels. Develop a checklist. Make sure everyone who encounters the boiler or pressure vessel knows the danger signs and whom to call for immediate help.
- **Repairs:** Require that all welded repairs be performed by National Board "R" stamp holders who are properly trained and qualified to repair boilers and pressure vessels. Such items have very specific repair protocols that help prevent accidents.

Each dry cleaning plant can establish a simple safety program. For example, look for a certificate of inspection on or near each boiler. The certificate should indicate the number of pounds of pressure under which the system can safely operate. A quick glance at the pressure gage can instantly identify a potential danger.

As part of routine maintenance, open and clean boilers. Test pressure relief valves to make sure they are functioning properly. Move clutter, stored items and combustible substances far away from a boiler, so that overheating of these materials is not possible. Flammable liquids should not be stored in the same area as a boiler. Clean and dust the room that houses the boiler, and prevent nesting or breeding sites for pests.

## If There Is An Accident . . .

During the first minutes on an accident scene, one of the biggest risks with boilers is the high temperatures that may exist. Water or condensate hitting superheated metal can cause instant bursts of steam or further explosions. Also, one breath of superheated steam can damage the lungs and cause permanent breathing problems.

If a problem does occur, local emergency personnel, such as fire fighters, are the first line of defense. A call to the chief boiler inspector with the Division of Fire Safety will be vital to any accident investigation.

Good preventive maintenance and periodic inspection result in cost savings. Good safety practices make sense in a liability context. Since boilers are an integral part of the dry cleaning business, provide the routine maintenance and obtain the periodic inspections that will prevent accidents or problems in the future.